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## RANCH AND RANGE.

### The Question of Reserving the Public Domain.

### PROFITS OF STOCK-RAISING.

The Scrub Must Go—The Ideas of an Eastern Journal—Stock Notes in General.

#### The Range Problem.

We believe the public domain generally should be reserved for actual settlement, but there is a vast area that might profitably be leased to ranchmen for a short term of years, at the end of which time much of the land would probably be susceptible of development for purely agricultural purposes, and in the meantime the government would derive some revenue, and the trouble now existing between the ranchmen and the "grangers" would be avoided.

To secure such change in the present law as to make leasing possible, able as well as earnest men must be enlisted, and even then it is exceedingly doubtful if Eastern congressmen can be made to see the desirability of a change.

As matters now stand, four-fifths of the ranchmen pay no tribute whatever to either state or general government, and are trespassers upon the public domain, while the other fifth are securing vast areas of public lands in order to make ranching in the future successful. The time is coming when even this latter class of ranchmen will find it more profitable to lease or sell their lands for other purposes, and the result in any case must be a decline in the ranching business in the United States, which, if the past be taken as a criterion, is certainly not further than twenty years hence.

The only really sensible thing for ranchmen to do is to use a better class of stock sires and when they are driven from the range they can gather their stock into smaller pastures and raise beef as the farmers of the Western States are doing now. Verily the "scrub must go."—*Live Stock Indicator*.

#### Range Cattle Profits.

Taking one year with another there is perhaps no better business extant than that of producing beef for the multitudes, but cattle-raising has its ups and downs as well as any other industry. Our friends at the East appear to think that stockmen acquire very large fortunes in remarkably short time, and with little or no labor or personal effort. The idea is, to a very great extent, erroneous. There is good money in the cattle business, always has been and probably always will be; still the profitable conduct of the business demands good, sound judgment and business ability, and even though there be occasional off years, especially to those operating on borrowed capital at heavy rates of interest, the cattle growing industry is a profitable one if managed with a reasonable degree of ability. In talking upon this subject the *New American Stockgrower* has the following to say:

Just now there are a great many men making figures. Under the old dispensation the "figures" would make themselves, but now there is some financial and thinking ability requisite in the management of a ranch. The "lionaire" is largely a myth, so far as the opinion of the general public is concerned. In some quarters it is supposed that all a man has to do is to purchase a few cattle, supply himself with branding irons, open a bank account and take his ease. There may have been such a time; if so, it is long since passed to return no more. The cowboy of to-day has to wrestle with finances, high rate of interest, transportation, the falling market, and the worst of all the falling market. These elsewhere who think he is resting on "downy beds of ease" can get into his place with very little effort and a small monetary consideration. This information is given gratis, with the hope that it may do some good. The stockman, however, is not asking any sympathy, but he does desire fair treatment. His business is being revolutionized, and this too, in the face of the most stringent money market for the past ten years. He has to change base from the old to the new dispensation, and the change hurts him. He will survive the change. His pulse is getting more regular.

#### Hoof and Horn

The Utah delegates are gradually returning from the Convention. J. B. HAGGIN, the California turfman, will have two racing stables next year—one in the East and one in the West.

Miss Woodford and George Kinney will winter in Kentucky. The latter will probably never again be seen on the track.

A vicious attempt will be made in England next spring to raise the minimum racing weight from seventy-seven to at least eighty-four pounds.

Tax Baitonox Beach track is now almost entirely sodded and Eastern racing men appear to think hopefully of copying England and running on turf.

The famous young Kentucky stallion Epaulet, which was recently bought at auction for \$300, was sold on Friday to Robert Steele, of Philadelphia, for \$22,500.

Growing more and better wool on less legs should be the motto, rather than keeping a less number of sheep on a farm. Wool is a product that does not take fertility from soil like the growing grain, but actually adds to the value of the farm for grain growing purposes.—*Farmers' Review*.

PIERRE LOBILLARD thinks seriously of a European trip during the summer of 1886. He has been identified with racing. Loillard has not visited England, where his name is a household word in racing circles, through his series of brilliant successes with Parole, Troquois, Wallenstein, Paw-Paw, Aranza and others.

Dr. CAGNY calls attention to the indiscriminate use of tincture of arnica for horses. He says that it is often employed in considerable quantities for

thus greatly aggravating the original trouble. He also cites cases in which erysipelas has been induced in men from an over-use of this irritating remedy.

THERE is a great want about most farms, that of a well-regulated vegetable garden. With all the material in abundance, our farmers, as a general thing, are not as well supplied with choice and delicate vegetables as the inhabitants of our cities or the denizens of our suburbs. There can be no excuse whatever for this; and no farmer, who has a proper regard for the wants, even rights, of his family, will allow another year to pass without supplying this great desideratum.—*Ex*.

Stock Inspector Charles D. Hard, just returned from a trip to Custer and Meagher counties, says the Helena (Montana) *Herald*, reports the feed ranges in that part of Montana pretty well occupied and the grass for this season of the year shorter picking than usual. Cattle, however, are in good condition, and the favorable autumn is a great advantage to the feeding herds in that part of the Territory. Stock in nearly every section of Montana is in excellent shape to confront the coming winter.

THE MAN who wants good, thrifty half-breed 3-year-old range steers at less than three cents a pound, for feeding purposes, ought to go without and be compelled to sell his corn at sixteen cents a bushel. There is plenty of money in feeding steers (good ones) at three cents a pound. The Campbell & Dorsey stock sale was a complete success. The horses and cattle brought long prices. Raw horses sold at from \$17 to \$110 a head. Calves sold for \$12 to \$15 and yearlings for \$20 to \$23. Eight months' time did the business.—*Goldwell Journal*.

THE COMMISSIONER of agriculture expresses his intention of preparing some recommendations to Congress for legislation to check the fraud of selling artificial butter for genuine, and states that he is in conference with eminent legal authorities with a view to ascertain what kind of a law would be practicable. The chief of the dairy division of the department is collating all the State laws on the subject in order that the dairymen may be able to tell better than they can now whether to seek congressional or to rely on state legislation.

REFERRING to the decreased demand from America for draft horses, the *Live-Stock Journal*, London, says: "The foreign demand for first-class breeding stock has fallen off somewhat, and dull trade has caused contractors to reduce their studs. What is to be done, then, where animals are eating their heads off? All that the farming horse breeder can do evidently is to economize in the keep without starving the stock, and wait for better times. Once a reaction in the trade sets in, it will be hard to check it, and we know it has been going very much by fits and starts during the last two decades."

IN THE meeting of the Hereford breeders in Chicago, the motion carried to make one out of every ten thoroughbred bull calves ineligible to entry, the idea being to weed out in future the male animals to the extent of one-tenth. This is simply one of the many sensible moves the breeders of white-faces have of late years been making. In discussing the motion, Mr. H. C. Burleigh hit the nail on the head when he advised breeders that their "success depended on steers more than on bulls." When in England he had always advised their friends there "to steer one-half of their male calves, the four in ten that were the poorest and one-sixth of the best." Roll call on the motion showed 149 votes for and only 21 against it.—*Live Stock Indicator*.

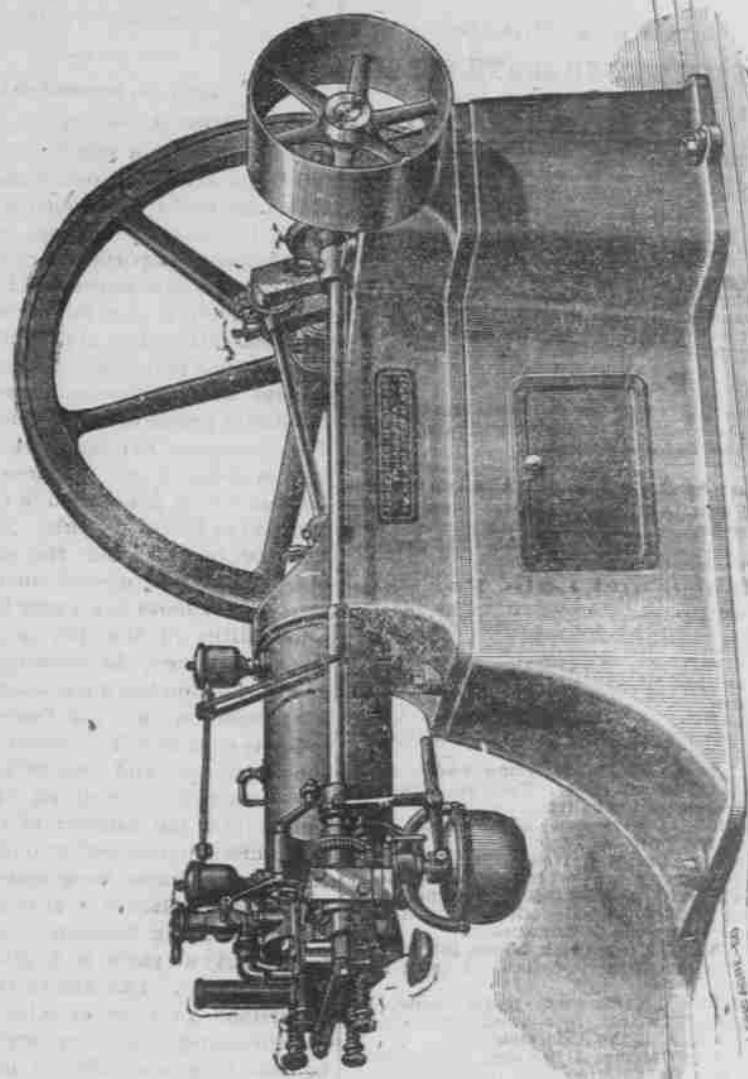
THE FARMERS in the vicinity of Longmont, Colorado, are becoming aroused in matters pertaining to their own interests. A few days ago a meeting was held in Longmont to take into consideration the feasibility of building or buying a flouring mill, and if possible avoid having any transacting with the millers' combination. A committee of five substantial farmers were selected to make some investigations and report at a meeting to be called in the near future. This is a step in the right direction, and why cannot the farmers organize for protection as well as any other class of men? If it is the right for trades and corporations to organize in order to concentrate their influence, it is equally right for the farmers to do the same.—*Loveland Reporter*.

THE EXPERIENCE of most of our ranchmen this year is that there is big money in raising potatoes, as the crop is one of the easiest raised, and one attended with but little outlay of money, while the amount realized per acre is greater than can be realized from any other crop almost that could be put in. This season the price has averaged about seventy cents per hundred pounds, with a rising market. Already in the neighborhood of thirty carloads have been shipped from this station, the markets of Leadville and Gurnison taking the major part of them, while at least one-half of the crop has been stored away for the spring. It is safe to predict that the acreage of potatoes that will be planted next spring will be double that of this season, and that next year's prices will not be lower than this season. Delta County productions were this fall introduced into the mountain markets and they were wonderfully appreciated.—*Chief*.

THE NEW Creek cattle law just passed by their council provides for a tax of \$1 per head on all over 24 head of cattle owned by any citizen. It also taxes all foreign cattle brought into the country between September 1st and June 1st to the amount of \$3 per head, and all brought in between June 1st and September 1st shall pay a tax of \$5 per head. This bill was vetoed by Chief Perryman but was promptly passed over his head with only seven dissenting votes. The arguments used in favor of the bill were that some were getting far more than their share of the public domain and should be made to pay for the excess. In support of the tax on foreign cattle it was claimed that the leading cattlemen were buying all their cattle in Texas at from \$3 to \$8 lower than the prices here, and consequently the small raisers could not sell their few head they had raised, or were compelled to do so at a considerable loss.—*Minneapolis Journal*.

There is every reason to believe that next spring will see all Europe in arms. There seems to be no possible solution of the complications between the nations abroad but by an appeal to the sword. Russia wants Constantinople, and some day will get it, while Germany is determined to have more seaports on the German Ocean. It is commercial

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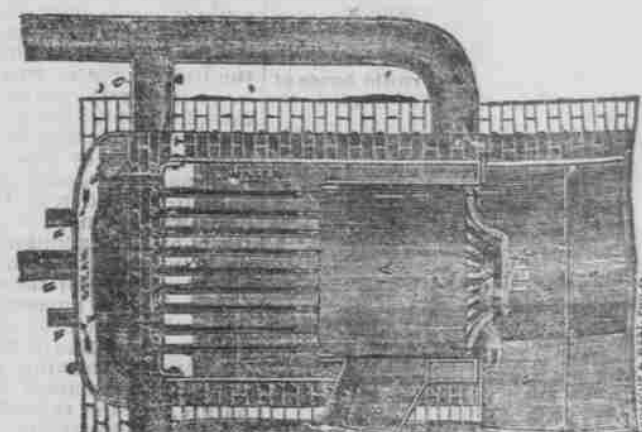
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